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PELHAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

PELHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

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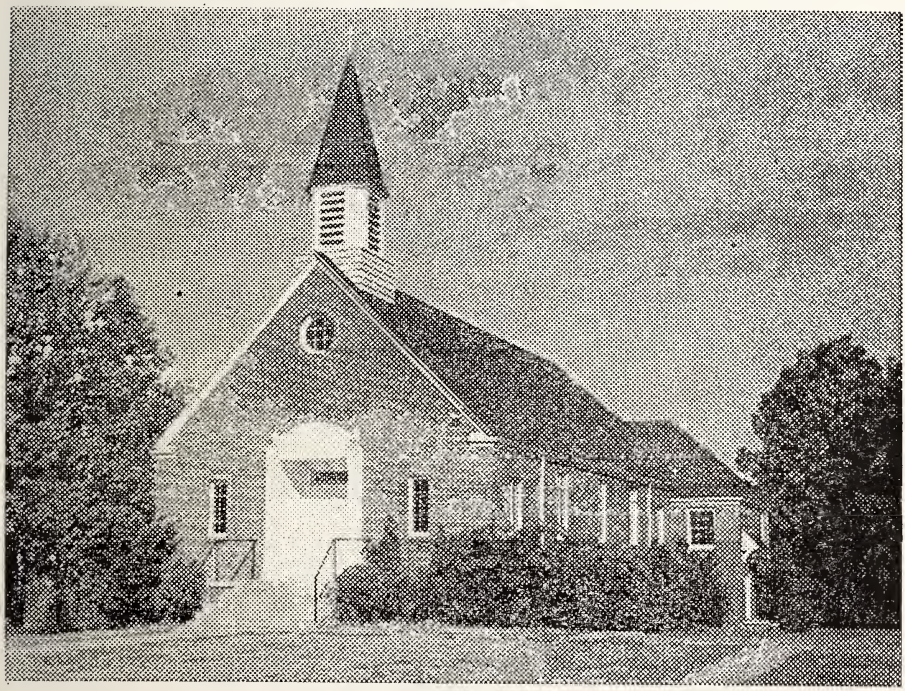
Pelham United Methodist Church

PELHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord"
—Psalms 122:1



CAMERON M. DODSON, *Minister*

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

CHURCH SCHOOL

First, Third and Fifth Sundays 9:45 a. m.
Second and Fourth Sundays 11:00 a. m.

MORNING WORSHIP

First, Third and Fifth Sundays 11:00 a. m.
Second and Fourth Sundays 9:45 a. m.

"To all who need comfort . . . to all who need friendship . . . to those who are lonely and need companionship . . . to all who want sheltering love . . . to those who sin and need a Saviour . . . and whosoever will . . . this Church opens wide its doors, and in the Name of Our Lord says, 'WELCOME'."

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Pelham United Methodist Church

PELHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

100th ANNIVERSARY

1871-1971

CENTENNIAL PROGRAM

October 31, 1971

E X H I B I T S

HISTORIC MEMENTOS A display of photographs, bulletins, writings, old sofa used as pulpit furniture in old church, given by Mr. and Mrs. Flemming Swann, woodworking plane used by James Rawlins in building of old church and other interesting items.

PELHAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CENTENNIAL SERVICE

October 31, 1971

Cameron Dodson, Minister

Prelude	Organist
Call to Worship	Choir
Invocation	The Minister
Hymn I	Congregation
Responsive Reading	Congregation
Gloria Patri	
Call to Prayer	Organist
The Morning Prayer and Lord's Prayer	Rev. John Carper
Worship with our Tithes and Offerings	
The Announcements	The Minister
Recognition of Former Members	The Minister
History of the Church	Mrs. Nat H. Swann
Hymn 297	Congregation
Reading from the Holy Scripture	Rev. John Carper
Solo	Dr. James H. Fowler, Jr.
Introduction of Speaker	Rev. John Carper
Sermon	Dr. C. C. Herbert
Hymn 470	
Benediction	Dr. C. C. Herbert
Amen	

P65994 William S. Powell

HISTORY OF PELHAM METHODIST CHURCH

Mrs. Nat H. Swann, Historian

To write the history of Pelham Methodist Church, whose span of years stretches over a century, is to relate, as all history does, records of accomplishments, disappointments, joys, sorrows, periods of spiritual growth, periods of decline, but through it all a burning desire on the part of the Pelham community to see a dream materialize. That dream was to build here a church where men, women and little children might come to worship and know God. Such were the aspirations, ambitions and prayers of a few God-centered Christians who, prior to 1871, struggled to make the dream possible.

The writer realizes that due to lack of information, there are many gaps in the history of Pelham Church. It is regretted if proper credit has been denied any person who helped to make the above dream possible. If there are mistakes in this history, this, too, is regretted.

Prior to the building of the church in 1871 services were held under a bush arbor erected on the site of the present B. R. Fitzgerald, Sr., home.

The minister at that time was the Rev. John R. Lewis. Our records tell us little about Mr. Lewis, but he must have been a man who inspired his congregation to higher planes of living. When the weather became too cold to worship under the green trees, we feel sure the Rev. Mr. Lewis said to his congregation, "We must build a house of worship here in Pelham." If there were those who said, "We are not able", there must have been many brave souls who, like Caleb and Joshua when instructed to go into the land of Cannan and spy out the land, said, "There will be obstacles but with God's help we can build a church."

Sometime during the beginning of the year 1871 Pelham Methodist Episcopal Church South had its beginning, and a frame building was then erected a few feet from the

present site. This was not architecturally a beautiful building, but it served the needs of the community for seventy one years. The contractor of the original church was Mr. James Rawlins (grandfather of Frank Rawlins, of this community).

Times were difficult in those days, and building a church meant hard labor and many personal sacrifices, such as the contribution of Mr. John Archer Pierce (father of the late Tom, Vester and Mary Pierce), who subscribed $200 to the building fund, and to secure this amount got a job with the telephone company to distribute poles from Reidsville to Danville. Such were the sacrifices of many.

The original grant of land for the church and cemetery was given by William B. and Elizabeth Swann (grandparents of Mrs. Elizabeth Swann Fitzgerald, and great grandparents of Allen and Nat Swann, Jr.,).

The trustees of the original church were Daniel S. Price, John W. Garrett, William Coleman, Milton Voss, Washington Price, Vincent B. Swann, John Fitzgerald, Bannister Fitzgerald, and John Archer Pierce.

After many months of labor the Pelham Methodist Episcopal Church South was dedicated to the service of Almighty God on Sunday, September 3, 1871. Dr. Numa Fletcher Reid preached the dedicatory sermon, using as his text the sixth Chapter of Matthew, Verse 10, "Thy Kingdom Come." James A. Chandler, of Chandler's Mill, N. C., assisted in the dedication.

The original Bible which was presented to the church on Dedication Day is now enclosed in a glass case in the recreation room of the present church. This Bible was made possible by contributions solicited by Mrs. Georgia F. Price.

The first pastor of the church was the Rev. William Capus Norman, son of a circuit rider (uncle of W. C. Stokes, Miss Susie Stokes, and Mrs. Percy Daily, of Reidsville). The Rev. Norman served the church from 1871-1875.

Old letters and records give interesting accounts of two very early weddings in the original church. The first, May 6, 1879, was that of Miss Georgie Price, the daughter of George Washington Price, to O. R. Hinton, of Covington, Georgia. The thirteen couples who served as attendants in the wedding rode to the church in buggies, carriages and surries, and according to Mrs. R. E. Turner (a relative of the Prices) lanterns were hung in the trees all the way from the home(on the Shady Grove Road) to the church to light the way for the many guests present for the occasion.

Another interesting wedding in the church was one solemnized October 14, 1897, united Miss Maria Sue Howard and Asa T. Holland (Parents of Mrs. Fred Leggett, Mrs. Bruce Williams and Mrs. Arch Gravely, of Danville,Virginia and sister of the late Mrs. J. C. Gibbs.)

After serving the needs of the people for more than seventy years, the necessity for a new building was apparent; so again the people of the community began the task of building a new church. The present church building was begun on Good Friday, 1941, and the first spade of earth for the new building was turned by the late Thomas S. Womack.

The church was constructed under the leadership of the Rev. James W. Fowler, Jr., pastor of the church, and the building committee was composed of the late Paul V. Fitzgerald, the late Nat H. Swann, and J. Hester Fowlkes. Plans for the building were made by H. M. Haines, of Duke University, Durham, N. C., and the contractor was the late E. M. Fitts, of Danville. Mention is not made of the many present and past fine workers because someone might be omitted, but according to the words of the Rev. Jim Fowler, "The building of the Pelham Methodist Church was the finest illustration of cooperation and team work on the part of many people."

The Pelham Methodist Church was dedicated on Sunday, September 19, 1943, under the pastorate of the Rev. Walter R. Thompson, who rendered invaluable service, not only in the spiritual life of the church, but in laying the concrete walks and completing many unfinished details of the church. The dedicatory sermon was preached

by Dr. J. M. Ormand, of Durham, N. C.

Following the sermon the building was presented by the late Paul V. Fitzgerald, Chairman of the Board of Stewards. The words of dedication were given by Dr. L. B. Hayes, District Superintendent, and the response was led by F. H. Duncan. Other ministers present for the occasion, other than the pastor, were the Rev. J. W. Fowler, Jr., the Rev. W. J. Andes, and the Rev. Joyce V. Early.

The Bible used in the church on Dedication Day was given by Colonel Edwin Turner and J. Witcher Turner, sons of Mrs. R. E. Turner.

The first wedding in the new church was solemnized April 20, 1946, by the Rev. Walter R. Thompson, united Miss Mary Louise Rawley and Master Sergeant Victor Price Ogden, now residing in Danville, Virginia.

The oldest member of the church is Mrs. Annie Pryor Powell, now 92 years of age.

Pelham community has had three parsonages, the first one being the home now occupied by Misses Vera and Pauline Cooper; the second, used for only a short period of time, now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Stadler. The present parsonage was built under the leadership of the Rev. G. Howard Allred, and was dedicated October 21, 1951. Funds for the construction of the parsonage were raised not only by the Woman's Society of Christian Service, who held many Brunswick stews, suppers, etc., but by the men of the church who on one occasion donned white jackets and gave a Victory Supper, charging $10 a plate, realizing from the supper $1,230. The goal for the parsonage was $8,500. To reach this goal, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Fitzgerald donated lumber from their forest; farm tractors dug the basement, men and boys donated their labor; skilled craftsmen were employed when necessary; and finally the hard-working pastor, the Rev. Howard Allred, moved with his family into the new two-story brick house, modern in design and completely equipped.

Music has always held an important part in the worship service of Pelham Methodist Church. In the summer of 1954 Mrs. Nat Swann, desiring to equip the church with an organ, solicited memorials for the purchase of a Hammond organ. On October 17, 1954, the organ was presented to the congregation and dedicated to the memory of:

James O. and Mary R. Fitzgerald, Thomas N. and Rosa H. Pierce, Joseph Allen and Hannah H. Swann, Robert Wesley Duncan, Thomas W. and Mary C. Stokes, William Abner Fowlkes, Robert Harvey Fowlkes, William Herman Fowlkes, Charles Walton Fowlkes, Irene H. McGee, Rufus Y. and Betty S. Womack, Betty Stona Womack, Mary Durham McKinney, Asa and Sue Holland, William Pinkney Pryor, Cabbell C. Early, John H. and Betty McGee, Eli C. Gerringer, William H. and Virginia Baise, Martha D. Cooper, R. Bernie Cooper, James W. and Maria T. Nunnally.

On October 14, 1954, the Beach Chimes were also presented to the church by members and interested friends. The organ and chimes were dedicated by the pastor, the Rev. Roy L. Grant, assisted by the Rev. Howard Allred, of Draper, and the Rev. Jesse Hite, of Ruffin. The cost of the organ and chimes amounted to $4,584.

The Woman's Society of Christian Service had its beginning many years ago as The Ladies Aid Society. It became a Missionary Scoiety in 1926 under the direction of Mrs. G. W. Williams, wife of the Rev. G. W. Williams. Later the Society became the Woman's Society of Christian Service, and now the Women's Society of Christian Service.

Through all its many changes this organization has been a helping hand in the building of the church, the building and furnishing of the parsonage, and has had a large part in the ongoing ministry of the church.

During the pastorate of the Rev. Paul Dennis in 1956 a fund was started to renovate and landscape the Pelham Church Cemetery. Contract for this work was given to J. Lewis and Sons, of Cascade, Virginia, and a much improved cemetery was the result. The church has no permanent fund for the upkeep of the cemetery, and is entirely dependent on contributions by those who have families buried in the cemetery. The trustees of the church and cemetery are J. H. Fowlkes, Louis R. McKinney and Charles N. Morris, Jr. The treasurer is L. R. McKinney. The first person buried here was Miss Lemma Pryor, sister of the late W. P. Pryor. The first funeral held in the new church was that of John Durham.

The Sunday School Class formerly called the Women's Bible Class is now known as the May Gerringer Bible Class, in memory of Mrs. Gerringer, who for many years was teacher of the class. A picture of Mrs. Gerringer, given by her family, hangs in the classroom. Mrs. J. H. Fowlkes is now teacher.

Gifts to the church other than those already mentioned are:

The altar candle sticks, given by the late Mrs. B. R. Fitzgerald, in honor of her children, Mrs. Drewery Scearce, Mrs. Peyton McCrary, and Reece Fitzgerald.

Silver urn, given in memory of Mrs. J. C. Gibbs by the Shakespeare Club of Danville.

Piano, Dr. J. O. Fitzgerald, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Fitzgerald, and Mrs. Nat Swann.

Cabinet for church records, May Gerringer Bible Class.

Kneeling Pad, Moseley Memorial Church

Men's Room Fixtures, Roy Fowlkes

Movie Projector, M.Y.F.

The Lecturn, Men's Bible Class

The Brass Collection Plates, Mr. & Mrs. Henry Duncan.

Silver Vase, given by Elizabeth Baldwin in honor of the Rev. J. W. Fowler, Jr.

The Cross, given by Nat H. Swann in memory of Walter C. Swann.

Choir Robes, Women's Society of Christian Service

The Baptismal Font, W.S.C.S.

The (old) Methodist Hymnals, Dr. J. O. Fitzgerald

The New Methodist Hymnals, church and memorial gifts from interested friends and relatives

Sallman's Picture of Christ, May Gerringer Bible Class

Sallman's Picture of Christ (Recreation Room), Mr. and Mrs. C. N. Morris, Sr.

The Paraments, W.S.C.S. and Young Adult Class.

The Table Cross in May Gerringer Bible Class, Mrs. J. H. Fowlkes

Candle Stick, Praying Hands and Cover on Worship Center in May Gerringer Bible Class, Mrs. F. H. Duncan

The history of the Pelham United Methodist Church for the past one hundred years has been partially told. Many changes have taken place this past century, and will continue to take place. How shall we meet those changes in the years ahead, for meet those changes we must, if the church is to live.

It is my prayer today, and I'm sure the prayer of every member of this congregation, that Pelham United Methodist Church will continue to be a guiding light in an insecure world. May that light help to shed a gleam which will bring peace and good will to all men.

In closing the history of Pelham United Methodist Church I wish to read a little poem which says what my heart feels:

I love this little Church,
For when I pause to pray
The Savior seems so dear,
And God not far away.

Each time I leave my church,
The presence seems so near
That I go forth with thanks
For churches small and dear.

Cathedral spires I love,
And every sacred shrine
But nothing meets my need
Like this small church of mine.

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF THE MINISTERS WHO HAVE SERVED THE CHURCH FROM 1871-1971:

1871	William Capus Norman
1875	Robah L. Bumpass
1876	V. A. Sharpe
1880	N. E. Coletrane
1884	P. L. Herman
1885	A. G. Barrett
1886	G. L. Round
1888	A. G. Troy
1890	L. E. Thompson
1891	G. W. Fisher
1893	J. H. Shore
1897	W. J. Twilley
1899	R. J. Taylor
1901	J. H. McCracken
1904	E. Pope
1905	W. H. Kirton
1906	W. D. Sasser
1907	S. F. Nicks
1911	F. E. Dixon
1912	R. L. Andrews
1913	H. C. Smith
1916	L. L. Smith
1917	L. C. Brothers
1918	J. O. Long
1919	Walters
1920	H. F. Starr
1924	J. H. Brendall
1926	G. W. Williams
1927	Iron L. Roberts
1929	J. W. Bennett
1930	E. W. Needham
1932	Robert M. Laughlin
1935	Saffritt
1936	E. C. Calhoun
1937	H. R. Cornelius
1938	J. W. Fowler

1942	Walter R. Thompson
1945	Paul Taylor
1947	Dowd Bangle
1948	G. Howard Allred
1953	Roy Grant
1956	Paul Dennis
1958	C. D. Brown
1959	L. E. Barden
1963	W. H. Benfield
1965	C. W. Randolph
1968	Cameron Dodson

MINISTERS ON PROGRAM TODAY

Dr. C. C. Herbert, Assistant to the Bishop of the Western North Carolina Conference, is our guest speaker this morning. Dr. Herbert comes to us from Charlotte.

The Rev. John H. Carper, District Superintendent of the Winston-Salem, N. E. District, is assisting in the service today.

Dr. James H. Fowler, Jr., Chairman of the College Coordinating Council of the Western North Carolina Conference, is our guest soloist this morning.

CHURCH DIRECTORY 1971-1972

Resident Bishop ..... Earl G. Hunt, Jr.
Charlotte, N. C.

District Superintendent ..... John H. Carper
Box 5197, Ardmore Station, Winston-Salem, N. C. 27103

Minister ..... Cameron M. Dodson
Box 82, Pelham, N. C. 27311
Telephone Gatewood Exchange 388-2931

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

Chairman of Administrative Board ..... F. Henry Duncan
Communion Stewards ..... Mrs. Harry Pryor, Mrs. C. N. Morris, Sr.
Lay Leader ..... Archie L. Boyd
Chairman of Council on Ministries ..... Mrs. C. F. Pryor

WORK AREA CHAIRMEN

Ecumenical Affairs ..... Mrs. Harvey Stroud
Education ..... Mrs. John Newnam
Evangelism ..... Mrs. J. H. Fowlkes
Missions ..... Mrs. Sue McGee
Social Concerns ..... Mrs. Lewis McKinney
Stewardship ..... F. Henry Duncan
Worship ..... Mrs. N. H. Swann

AGE LEVEL COORDINATORS

Children ..... Mrs. William Turner
Youth ..... Mrs. Harold Layne
Adult ..... Mrs. H. A. Womack
Family ..... Mrs. C. N. Morris, Jr.
Youth Member of Council of Ministries ..... Gina Pryor
Recording Secretary of Board ..... Mrs. C. F. Pryor
Secretary of Enlistment ..... Mrs. A. C. Carter

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Mrs. Archie Boyd, B. R. Fitzgerald, Jr., J. H. Fowlkes, Miss Mary E. Fowlkes, Mrs. Lee Gerringer, B. J. Layne, Harold Layne, Mrs. Gladys McGee, J. Neal McGee, Mrs. J. Neal McGee, Lewis R. McKinney, C. N. Morris, Jr., C. N. Morris, Sr., and C. F. Pryor

Health and Welfare Representative ..... Mrs. C. N. Morris, Jr.
Church Treasurer ..... Archie L. Boyd

COMMITTEES

Pastor-Parish Relations Committee: C. N. Morris, Sr., Chairman; Harold Layne, C. F. Pryor

Committee on Finance: F. Henry Duncan, Chairman; B. J. Layne, C. N. Morris, Jr., J. H. Fowlkes and all ex-officio members

Committee on Nominations and Personnel: J. Neal McGee (1972), Mrs. J. H. Fowlkes (1973), Mrs. C. N. Morris, Sr. (1974)

Committee on Records and History: Mrs. N. H. Swann

Church and Parsonage Trustees: C. N. Morris, Jr. (1972), Lewis McKinney (1973), J. H. Fowlkes (1974)

Membership Secretary: Mrs. F. Henry Duncan

Superintendent of Study Program (Church School Superintendent): F. Henry Duncan

Parsonage Committee: Mrs. N. H. Swann, Mrs. F. Henry Duncan, Mrs. Archie Boyd

Quadrennial Emphasis: Mrs. John McGee, Harold Layne, Archie L. Boyd

Delegates to District Conference: Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Fowlkes

Lay Speaker: F. Henry Duncan

Representative of District Mission Society: Mrs. Sue McGee

Chairman of Methodist Builders Club: Mrs. Harry Pryor

Representative of Blue Ridge Methodist Service Program: Mrs. Harvey Stroud

Chairman of Committee on Communications: Mrs. Gladys McGee

Representative of Conference Brotherhood: Lewis R. McKinney

President of W. S. C. S.: Mrs. William Turner

Trier of Appeals: F. Henry Duncan

District Steward: T. B. Austin, **Reserve:** C. F. Pryor

Delegate to Annual Conference: F. Henry Duncan, **Reserve:** Mrs. N. H. Swann

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